

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04205 141336Z

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UNCLAS QUITO 4205

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FOR: IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE ECUADOREAN TOURISM JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

REF: QUITO 4129 DATED 6/11/75

1. EL COMERCIO, LEADING QUITO DAILY, GAVE TOP COVERAGE TODAY TO A MEETING OF THE ECUADOREAN TOURISM JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS A SHORTAGE OF PASSENGER SPACE ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS COMING INTO QUITO.

2. THE ARTICLE, HEADLINED -MORE THAN 8,000 TOURISTS CANCELLED TRIPS TO THE COUNTRY FROM JANUARY TO JUNE", SAID THE DROP IN TOURISM WAS DUE TO "REGULATIONS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION, WHICH REDUCED PASSENGER SPACE." IT QUOTED A PARTICIPANT AT THE MEETING AS SAYING TWO TOURIST AGENCIES, ONE DANISH AND ONE AMERICAN, HAD CANCELLED 10 AND 40 TOURIST GROUPS, RESPECTIVELY, "DUE TO THE EXISTING PROBLEMS."

3. EL COMERCIO HAS CRITICIZED THE CIVIL AIR AGENCY SHARPLY IN RECENT DAYS (SEE REFTTEL), BUT THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN PICKED BY A SINGLE OTHER MEDIA OUTLET. TODAY'S ARTICLE CHIDED THE DIRECTORATE FOR NOT SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH AN INVITATION HAD BEEN SENT.

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PAGE 02 QUITO 04205 141336Z

4. "THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING WARNED THAT THE

RESTRICTIONS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION SEEK TO HELP ECUATORIANA AVIATION (THE ECUADOREAN AIRLINE) AND SAID THEY WERE IN AGREEMENT TO BOOST THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT LINE, BUT THAT AN ANALYSIS SHOULD BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF THE DISPOSITIONS AFFECT TOURISM, AS IS HAPPENING NOW," THE ARTICLE SAID.

5. DELEGATES APPROVED A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CIVIL AVIATION TO CALL A MEETING WITH TOURIST-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS TO ANALYZE THE PROBLEM AND SEEK SOLUTIONS TO AVOID STAGNATION OF THE NATIONAL TOURIST INDUSTRY.
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